THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The number of patents registered (granted) on an average in a year in the country during the last 10 years is 1898.

(b) The number of patents registered (granted) during the last three years is as under :

Year	No. of patent registered
1993-94	1746
1994-95	1759
1995-96	1533

(c) During last three years, one patent, namely, Patent number 168950 entitled "method of producing transformed cotton cells by tissue culture" was de-registered/revoked in public interest under the powers vested in Central Government by virtue of provisions of Section 66 of the Patents Act, 1970.

Mishra Committee and Manmohan Committee

5668. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mishra Committee and Manmohan Committee set up for small scale industries have made many recommendations;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by each Committee; and

(c) the details of recommendations accepted by the Government and implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Government is not aware of such Committees set up for small scale industries.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Garment Export Quota

5669. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3586 on August, 19, 1994 and state :

(a) whether final report regarding investigation by C.B.I. has since been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken and a law suit would be filed against the culprits ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The final decision would be taken in the case only after completion of the investigation.

Export of Snake Skin

5670. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of snake skin exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise ;

(b) the details of the policy for exporting snake skin; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the lives of habitants from snake-bite deaths particularly in the flood prone areas of Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). As per the provisions of the current Export and Import Policy (1992-97), export of all forms of wild animals including their parts and products are prohibited. Snakes are covered under the definition of wild animals, hence, export of the same in any form is prohibited.

(c) As per available information Snake bite treatment is available in the Primary Health Centres. A referral system is also available in the rural areas to send such cases to the nearby community Health Centre or to the District Hospital for urgent treatment.

Financing of Private Plantation by NABARD

5671. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of NABARD in the matter of financing private plantation/forestry of commercial nature such as teakwood; and

(b) the details of the norms followed for financing the private sector ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides, *inter-alia*, refinance assistance to banks for financing plantation/forestry projects including teak wood plantations. However, NABARD has reported that it has so far not received any project for teak wood plantation in the private sector for sanction.

(b) The type of private sector forestry schemes eligible for refinance from NABARD are, as follows :

(i) Forestry plantations on wastelands which are in conformity with the national forest policy;

(ii) Captive plantation on degraded land by the user industries with a view to raising raw materials for their industries;

(iii) Farm forestry/agro-forestry schemes for generating additional income to the individual farmers;

(iv) Nursery schemes to support plantation and afforestation activities;

(v) Tree patta schemes to benefit the permit holders.

As regards plantations for captive use by industries, a minimum area of 5000 hectares (to be taken up over three years) has been stipulated. For cooperatives and private entrepreneurs with tie up with user industry, the stipulated minimum area is 100 hectares.

D.A. to Family Pensioners

5672. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether various Central Administrative Tribunals have directed the Central Government to release forthwith D.A. to the family pensioners who have been appointed on compassionate ground or already in service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage of implementation at which the matter stands at present ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). As per existing orders, dearness relief on pension/family pension remains suspended during the period the pensioner/family pensioner is employed under the Central or State Government or a Corporation/Company/Body Bank under them in India or abroad including permanant absorption in such organisations. The rationale for this restriction is that a pensioner/family pensioner gets compensated during his employment against price rise by way of D.A. on pay. If dearness relief on pension/family pension is also allowed it will amount to double compensation. Some Central Administrative Tribunals did allow D.R. on pension during employment. However, the Supreme Court vide its judgement dated 8.12.1994 has upheld the Government decision of disallowing D.R. on pension/family pension during the course of employment.

Jute Corporation of India

5673. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to close down Jute Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the future plan to augment the functions of the Jute Corporation of India for the interest of jute growers ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Jute Corporation of India has been instructed to go for Minimum Support Price operation in jute when the need so arise during 1996-97 Jute season.

Excise Duty Benefits to Consumers

5674. SHRI R. DEVADASS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any mechanism to ensure that the benefits of reduction in the excise duty especially relating to consumable goods announced in the budget are passed on to the ultimate user ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the action taken or being taken against companies which do not pass on the entire benefit to consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The prices of commodities are generally determined by market forces and depend on a multiplicity of factors, of which excise duty is only one.

There is no legal mechanism to ensure reduction in price to the extent of reduction in excise duty, where there is no price control.

Sanction of Two Parliamentary Constituencies

5675. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to sanction two Parliamentary Constituencies for Leh and Kargil districts separately in view of vastness of area (about 10,000 sq. km. of Ladakh region);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present there is a Constitutional bar on increasing the existing number of seats allotted to a State in the House of the People.